

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /085 W

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R 011715Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP AG MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY: ICJ PRESENTATIONS END AMIDST CONTINUING
ATTACKS ON ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE, BUT HINTS OF FLEXIBILITY ON
SELF-DETERMINATION SEEM TO BE REFLECTED IN RECENT ALGERIAN AND
MOROCCAN STATEMENTS. TUNIS REPORTEDLY MEDIATING BETWEEN
RABAT AND ALGIERS. MOROCCAN SOLDIERS HELD BY SPANISH APPARENTLY
NOT YET RELEASED, PERHAPS HELPING TO ACCOUNT FOR RECENT SIGNS OF
INCREASED SPANISH-MOROCCAN TENSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ICJ. CLOSING OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS PHASE OF ICJ PROCEEDINGS
OCCASIONED FURTHER ATTACKS ON ALGERIAN REP BEDJAOUI BY AUTHORI-
TATIVE SEMI-OFFICIAL PUBLISHER ALAOUI, REPORTING FROM THE
HAGUE. ALAOUI OUTRAGED BY "SPANISH-ALGERIAN COLLUSION" IN
ALGERIAN SELF-DETERMINATION STANCE, THOUGH HIS OUTBURSTS BY
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NOW CONTAIN LITTLE NEW. HIS MAROC-SOIR EDITORIAL JULY 31, "THE

OBJECTIVE ALLY OF SPAIN", CALLED BEDJAOUI "DISHONEST" AND A "HYPOCRITE," BUT AGAIN AVOIDED DIRECT ATTACK ON GOA.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT ALAQUI EDITORIAL, IN ATTACKING SELF-DETERMINATION, QUOTED BEDJAOUI AS SAYING CONCEPT "PRESENTS VARIETY OF OPTIONS AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT RESERVE...IT OFFERS WIDE ARRAY OF SOLUTIONS FROM WHICH FREE CHOICE TO BE MADE." STATEMENT SEEMS TO FALL INTO A SERIES OF SIMILAR COMMENTS--E.G., ALGERIAN EMBOFF IN RABAT 3514, GOM REP VEDEL BEFORE ICJ ("SELF-DETERMINATION APPLICABLE IN VARIETY OF WAYS..."), AND RENEWED POSITIVE LARAKI REFERENCE TO WEST IRIAN PRECEDENT DURING HIS RECENT SWING THROUGH AFRICA WITH OULD MOUKNASS. SUCH STATEMENTS SEEM TO HINT AT SOME FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH SIDES BENEATH FIRM PUBLIC POSTURES, PRO OR CON, ON SELF-DETERMINATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION HAVE NOT BEEN TIED TOGETHER IN ALGERIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR ICJ PRESENTATION.

4. KAMPALA: GOM SEEMS TO HAVE GAINED OR LOST LITTLE SAHARA GROUND AT OAU SUMMIT. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AUGUST 1. REPORTED "ENERGETIC" MOROCCAN WORDS ON SAHARA QUESTION, BUT MENTIONED BY WAY OF RESULTS ONLY A POSITIVE RESOLUTION ON ENCLAVES QUESTION. PRESS SAID SAHARA NOT OFFICIALLY EXAMINED DURING CONFERENCE BECAUSE QUESTION IS BEFORE ICJ. PRIMIN OSMAN ALSO REPORTEDLY SUCCEEDED IN HAVING WITHDRAWN CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTION ON SAHARA SELF-DETERMINATION INTRODUCED BY EQUATORIAL GUINEA. MEANWHILE, ALGERIA HAS BEEN IGNORED SINCE F POLISARIO SHOWN EGRESS AT KAMPALA. L'OPINION (OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL), WITH EYE AS ALWAYS ON HOLE RATHER THAN DOUGHNUT, DREW ATTENTION TO AFP DISPATCH THAT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE AWARE OF "ANTAGONISTIC POSITIONS" OF MOROCCO/MAURITANIA ON ONE HAND AND ALGERIA ON OTHER. ITEM GAVE BYZANTINE EXPLANATION OF POST-BOUDEFELIKI VISIT DIFFERENCES THAT ORIGINAL ALGERIAN HAPPINESS" WITH MAURITANIA-MOROCCO SAHARA ACCORD HAD BEEN BASED ON ERRONEOUS ALGERIAN BELIEF THAT NO FIRM ACCORD REALLY POSSIBLE BETWEEN RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT.

5. TUNISIAN SAHARA MEDIATION: MAROC-SOIR JULY 31 CARRIED AFP REPORT OF CLAIM BY LEBANESE DAILY AL HAYAT THAT TUNISIAN FON MIN CHATTI ENGAGED IN MEDIATING SAHARA DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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MOROCCO AND ALGERIA DURING RECENT VISIT TO RABAT. REPORT SAID CHATTI TO PROCEED TO ALGIERS AFTER TUNIS.

6. SAHARA BORDER INCIDENTS: KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HERE TELL US THAT AS OF NOON AUGUST 1 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS TAKEN IN RECENT SAHARA INCIDENT NOT REPEAT NOT YET RELEASED (SEE MADRID 5253). SPANISH FAILURE TO RELEASE PRISONERS MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN RECENT INDICATIONS OF INCREASED SPANISH-

MOROCCAN TENSION. FOR EXAMPLE, RADIO MADRID ANNOUNCEMENT (FBIS LONDON R 322230 JULY 75) ECHOED VIEW EXPRESSED TO US EARLIER BY SPANISH EMBOFF (RABAT 3665) THAT JULY 27 INCIDENT AT TAH WAS MOROCCAN ATTEMPT TO TAKE SPANISH PRISONERS (AS BARGAINING PLOY FOR RELEASE OF MOROCCANS). RADIO ALSO REFERRED TO NEW "MOROCCAN TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NORTH OF BORDER" AND COMMENTED THAT GOM STILL SEEMED INTENT ON TAKING PRISONERS. WE ALSO NOTE REPORTED MOROCCAN SEIZURE OF HALF-DOZEN OR SO SPANISH FISHING VESSELS DURING LAST FEW DAYS (DAO RABAT IR 6 865 0205 75).
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